

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
AUGUST 26, 2010  
NICHOLS' ROOM

The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Lemay at 7:05PM. In attendance were John Russell, Don Watson, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, and Julie Jenkins.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Mary Ellen and Don reported on the Pequonnock River Initiative which involves representatives from the three towns (Bridgeport, Trumbull, and Monroe) the river flows through. Fuss and O'Neill are doing a study of the river at various points to determine the river's health (O<sub>2</sub> levels, E Coli levels, etc) to determine where any pollution exists. They will also be testing to determine if there is any change seasonally. The study should be completed by April, 2011. The funding is already in place for the study. The Initiative is looking for volunteers to do testing on September 18. There is a river hike planned for October 23 from 11:00-1:00 starting at Indian Ledge Park in Trumbull.

The dredging of the Pequonnock River at Old Mine Park was brought up at the meeting. Joanne and Dale brought pictures of the river they took just before tonight's meeting. The dredging was approved by the Inland Wetlands Board in 2009 and the permit is in effect until 2012. In looking over the permit, there were several items that were currently not being followed: silt fencing was not in place, hay bales were also not shown, there was no separation of the dredged material from the river, and no rip rap in place for machinery to enter the river area. There was also a concern by the Conservation Commission over the lack of testing of the dredged material before the project started, to assure the town that there were no contaminants buried in the river bottom. The suggestion was made that the Parks and Recreation Department should inform the Inland Wetlands Board as well as the Conservation Commission if there is to be any disturbance of a watercourse or wetland in town. Mary Ellen will call Dan Nelson about the dredging and discuss our concerns. She will ask for an open discussion of this dredging.

John Russell reported about the proposed renovation of the dam on Thrushwood Lake; a DEP report is forthcoming. The neighbors of Thrushwood Lake would like to know what they should do. The Conservation Commission will put this on the agenda for the September meeting when the DEP report is out.

Mary Ellen also said she has had several requests for Trumbull to develop a Landscape Preservation Ordinance to help protect trees and landscape from being indiscriminately removed. The suggestion was made to perhaps join with our neighboring towns to come up with a policy on landscape design and preservation. Dale mentioned that the overabundance of deer is also responsible for deforestation as the deer eat the seedlings. Don brought up the point that trees help control flooding by absorbing water during wet times and also letting it out in dry times. We will keep this on the agenda for September as well.

Don reported on the GIS which should be done by December or January. There should be something up on the web sooner. This should greatly help the Conservation Commission's work on cataloging Trumbull's open space.

Mary Ellen is meeting with the Board of Finance to ask that our budget include membership in the Southwest Conservation Commission.

Don had several points of new business he wanted brought up:

- The Conservation Commission could write a notice to go out on the reverse 911 call list if we had an issue of concern.
- There should be something on the town website having to do with what to do if there were a flooding emergency.

- The waste stream should be examined to help save the environment and provide jobs.
- Governor Rell is asking municipalities to look at ways they can address climate change.

Dale would like to compliment Steve Savarese for all his hard work. He has also heard about the possibility of combining Inland Wetlands with the Conservation Commission. Mary Ellen said she understood the First Selectman liked the Fairfield model and she will try to find out if there is any schedule to discuss this change during the charter revision meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jenkins